

MINUTES OF THE VERSHIRE TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE -
May 25, 2021

Present on ZOOM: David Hooke, Chairperson, Neil Hochstedler, Richard Jayne, Peet Pearson, and Justin Will. Absent: Pat Barnes, Andy Wasserman.

Prior to the meeting, Peet Pearson was asked by Pat Barnes to serve as Secretary in his place. This was approved by the TEC.

Previous Minutes were approved with motion by Justin. Seconded by Neil. Approved unanimously.

Discussion occurred over subjects for future meetings. David suggested the possibility that chairs of other similar or surrounding towns might be approached to meet with us to discuss what their committees began dealing with, what they might do differently if starting over, what resources, personnel and written, were particularly helpful. David said he had spoken with the chair of the Thetford TEC who might be helpful and available. Bob Walker, former head of Efficiency Vermont and a former member of Thetford's TEC, might be more helpful at this time given Bob's broader experience. Neil will speak with him about attending one of our more immediate meetings.

David reported he is receiving and has access to much, and increasing, amounts of information, some regarding possible grants. There will be need to sort through this and determine what is critical for us and how to distribute.

It was determined that part of this TEC's process of organizing will be to submit information pertinent to the committee to Justin who will serve as the "curator" of our information. He shared an example of his "pockets for organizing" already accessed information. His address is:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IHB8l8TwhH3ywKtxkT1vetp3GaxGlllG?usp=sharing>

WebPage: Questions were raised concerning the posting of information on the Town WebSite. Committee would like a separate WebPage under the current Town WebSite as indicated by Gene Craft's announcing of this meeting and listing of tentative agenda. David will prepare a list of resources and links for the WebPage. Pat will be asked to prepare the approved Minutes for publication on the WebPage. Peet will contact Gene, the current webmaster, for procedures for continuing contact and preparation of the WebPage.

Initial Survey: A suggestion was made to have the TEC do a short and simple survey to ascertain the Town's interest in what they think the TEC should be doing. David read a paragraph from the Minutes of the 2020 Town Meeting regarding the purpose of this committee.

It was agreed a simple survey might be initiated before engaging in the more sophisticated and focused surveys the committee has already begun to collect.

It was suggested that such a survey might go in the next Town newsletter if we could meet the deadline. It would be a one-page insert with a return date to be determined at the next meeting. All agreed to send possible questions and topics to Justin by 6/15 as a single source for pulling together the survey. Peet is also work on outlining a possible survey and make that available for discussion at the next meeting.

A further possibility was discussed and agreed to that we have a TEC table at Vershire Day on July 3rd and have surveys there for folks to fill out. Peet will check on procuring a table for the 3rd. Possible pertinent information in already printed brochures might be distributed then. Neil said he had several brochures on the Window Dresser Project. All agreed the general theme of the survey would be "How can the TEC be useful to you?"

WINDOW DRESSER PROJECT. Neil reported that he and Bob Walker are already working on a project called WINDOW DRESSERS, a non-profit, which focuses on providing supplies and working with volunteers in a community to provide inexpensive window inserts for insulation. The process is in three parts. An initial time of advertising and reserving of specific orders for such windows in a community, and the recruiting of volunteers to help make these inserts. Secondly, a team of persons will be trained in a workshop format to actually measure the windows of those who have ordered such. Then the third workshop is the week of actually making the inserts by the volunteer-making team. Neil has already reserved the Town Center for the week of November 4th to the 10th for this workshop.

The committee expressed much interest in supporting this project. There are many questions as yet unanswered. Four towns are joining together in this project: Vershire, West Fairlee, Bradford and Corinth. What is the maximum number of windows that can be made? How will that number be divided among the four towns? What will the final cost for each window be? Neil's estimate at this time is about \$35. How will volunteers be recruited? Beyond the final workshop dates in November, no other dates or deadlines have been set.

An interesting conversation ensued over the goals of the committee with Justin's indicating he understood our goal to be working towards the Town Meeting's directive of net-zero emissions by 2030. Are we restricted to just issues that relate to energy conservation or is there room for a wider range of issues? This led us back to the pertinent section of the 2020 Town Meeting Minutes which are attached for your information. Discussion to be continued.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, June 15th at 7 PM. All agreed they would be available by ZOOM. The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Peet Pearson (in the absence of Pat Barnes)